

REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

Claim 108 has been amended, claims 1-83, 94-95 and 109 have been canceled and new claim 110 has been added. Thus, claims 84-93, 96-108 and 110 are currently pending and under examination. The amendment to claim 108 is to correct a minor typographical error. Support for new claim 110 can be found at least in table 6 on page 30 and on page 5, lines 10-20 of the application. No new matter has been added.

B. Response to Requirement for Election of Species

In an Office Action dated June 27, 2008 the Examiner issued a requirement for a further species election beyond the originally elected species of substrate peptides having a sequence from $P_2P_1-P_1P_2$ of NF-AA. In the Office Action the Examiner suggested election of one of the sequences from claim 108. However, Applicants note that the sequences provided in claim 108 (SEQ ID NOs: 5, 7, 46-48, 115-119, 133, 135-137, 141, 143-145, 147 and 149-153) do not read on the original elected species of substrate peptides having a sequence of NF-AA at positions $P_2P_1-P_1P_2$.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully traverse and point out that the addition of claim 108 does not impose a search burden upon the Examiner. That is, no burden is imposed because all claims in the case that concern previously elected substrate peptides have already been examined. Nonetheless, in the interest of fully responding to the instant requirement for election of species, Applicants respectfully elect examination of claims concerning substrate peptides wherein P_3 is V and P_3' is E (*see e.g.*, claims 87 and 89), without prejudice to the inclusion of the non-elected subject matter in any later filed application(s). Applicants note that the instant claims concern assays with substrate peptides comprising at least 6 amino acids and that Applicants have now elected examination of claims which concern peptides wherein each of the six positions (*i.e.*, $P_3P_2P_1-P_1P_2P_3'$) has been defined. Thus, claims 84-92, 96-107 and new claim 110 concern peptide substrates having a sequence consistent with the current election (*i.e.*, VNF-AAE at the $P_3P_2P_1-P_1P_2P_3'$ positions). Applicants request consideration of claims concerning non-elected species (*i.e.*,

claims 93 and 108) upon an indication that a generic claim is allowable. In view of this further election, Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of the claims.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 84-93, 96-108 and 110 is in condition for allowance. Favorable examination and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided with any questions.

Dated: July 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Marshall P. Byrd

Registration No.: 62,454

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300

Sears Tower

Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357

(312) 474-6300

Agent for Applicants